

THE

HISTORIAN

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OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

July 1998

JULY HAPPENINGS

The July meeting of the Hancock County Historical Society will be held at noon on Thursday, July 23 at the Kate Lobrano House, 108 Cue Street, Bay Saint Louis.

The program will be a presentation of the Society's new book described below. Orders for early copies will be taken at the meeting.

Call 467-4090 for luncheon reservations at \$6.00. Please call early to assure your reservation and to help us plan seating.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

June was one of the busiest months in our history due to several projects we have been working on.

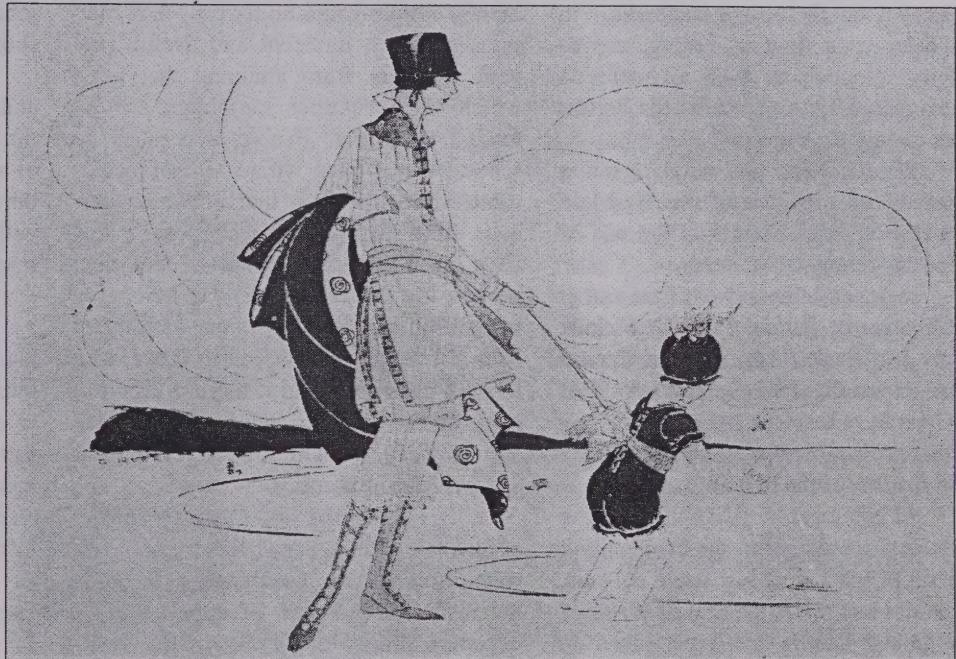
First, there is "the book". Actually, the title is *Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi, the First 300 Years 1699 - 1999*, but if we linger long enough to say that every time, we will never see it finished. And, finished it is, nearly, almost, well practically.

The book has been written as a sequel to the one published in 1958 when Bay Saint Louis celebrated its 100th year of incorporation. It is simply an up-date of the last 41 years and will serve as the guide for the Tercentenary.

The first printing, which will be ready before this newsletter is sent out, was a special order for the City of Bay Saint Louis and the Pearl River Community College Workforce Center.

The book contains a concise history of the coast, county, and city from

See President page 3



Turn of the Century Bathers

THE WATERING PLACES

Hints Relative to the Proper
Mode of Passing One's Time at the
Summering Places in the
Neighborhood of Our City.

In the beneficent arrangements of Providence, New Orleans is encompassed with all those accommodations requisite to secure the health and refreshments of its inhabitants during the summer season.

The natural advantages of the Bay of St. Louis, Pass Christian, Biloxi and Pascagoula are not inferior to those of the most celebrated watering places in Northern and Middle States. But many who have recourse to these favored seats of

salubrity and rural delights are grievously disappointed. They sigh after the comforts which they have left behind. They complain that the air of the sea-shore is quite as intemperate and oppressive as that of the city. Perhaps where they expected to enjoy a plentitude of health, they are assailed with forms of disease, or debility never before experienced.

Dissatisfied and discouraged, they suddenly embark for New Orleans or some other place, pouring out their maledictions on the atmosphere, the bathing conveniences, the hotels, the tables, etc., because all their extravagant anticipations have not been at once realized.

The fact is, such persons expect too much from a short, transitory and hurried

sojourn at the watering places. They ask for blessings which nature cannot bestow, without being endowed with the power of working miracles.

Sunburn

Now, these disappointments are owing, in nearly every instance, to gross imprudences and indiscretions. Not infrequently, gentlemen who pass their days while in the city secluded from the rays of the sun, have been known on their rural excursions to spend hours at a time in fishing, unprotected by so much as even an umbrella from overpowering violence of the hottest weather of July or August.

We recollect that we once saw a merchant by an exposure of this kind laid upon a bed of illness, which at the end of the third day remitted in death.

In general, the power of the sun at Pass Christian or Biloxi, from 10 o'clock A.M. to 4 o'clock P.M., is more intense and dangerous than it is in the streets of New Orleans, where the passengers enjoy important protection from awnings, piazzas and the shadow of the buildings.

At the former places the sand — the principal ingredient in the composition of the shore bank and soil itself collects, concentrates and raises the heat of the sun a degree greater than is ever experienced on the margin of the Mississippi. All things considered, exposure to a meridian sun is not less prejudicial to health at our watering places than in New Orleans or Natchez.

Bathing

Many persons injure themselves by improper indulgence with respect to bathing. The sensations produced by plunging into the surf on a warm day are so delightful that the temptation is almost irresistible to prolong one's stay in the water beyond the fitting period.

Some physicians who have had the best opportunity of forming a correct opinion, advocate the principle that it is not good to bathe oftener than once in two days, or to continue the indulgence more than three to five minutes at a time.

A young man whom we lately met is suffering extreme debility, and even specific disease from excessive bathing. He

went to the lake shore about a month ago in pretty good health, but is now an invalid. Such instances are of common occurrence. A momentary immersion will suffice for all the purposes of health and refreshment, if it be followed with thorough friction and appropriate exercise.

Moderation in Eating and Drinking

Want of moderation in the enjoyment of the table, and certain amusements, which, when under proper regulations are both innocent and useful, prevent numbers from attaining that good which their summer ramblings are intended to confer. There is perhaps no scene of existence where temperance is more important than that of which persons find themselves, who pass a few days or weeks at the hotels, boarding houses, or private residences belonging to the summer resorts in the vicinity of New Orleans. There, also, those who respect the virtue find it more difficult to obey its dictates than when they are quietly engaged in their ordinary vocations and pursuits at home.

Change of air, a greater degree of exercise than is usual, the effect of salt water, and many other causes, conspire to increase the demands of appetite till it becomes almost too important and imperious to be kept within due bounds. In such a situation, those who pursue happiness with the greatest energy and judgement will be liable to wander in forbidden paths.

Drink and Gambling

And the unfortunate class who have no fixed principles of conduct will be drawn into imprudences alike detrimental to their health and morals. After having partaken too heartily of a plain or sumptuous dinner, gentlemen often think it expedient, in order to counteract the baneful consequences of indigestion, to drink freely of brandy and water during the afternoon, till at last they sink into the arms of Morpheus in the unconscious state of inebriation.

Or, it may be, they pass all the day and a great part of the night at the card table. Nature sinks under what are

called diversions protracted beyond all reasonable limits. Of course these votaries of pleasure, to sustain themselves, must have recourse to copious portions of wine or ardent spirits.

Loss of Sleep

Young men engaged in mercantile pursuits through the week, on a Saturday afternoon go on board a steamer which enables them to pass the Sabbath inhaling the balmy breezes along the Gulf shore.

But the loss of two nights' rest, and inordinate unrestricted pleasures through the sacred day, diminish instead of augmenting their physical energies, and they enter upon the business of Monday with a stock of firmness and vigor, less than that with which they concluded the labors of the preceding week.

By a striking misnomer these jaunts are styled excursions for health and pleasure. But we have no time for more extended particulars. We can only say that the efforts of multitudes at our watering places to improve their physical condition, are rendered unavailing by various forms of intemperance.

Use of Time

Not a few at the summer resorts suffer considerably from the want of suitable and sufficient engagements. We can hardly imagine a situation more tiresome than that of a man who has been accustomed to a busy, active life, confined to the narrow purlieus of an hotel or boarding house along the Gulf shore, with no suitable occupations to fill and interest his mind.

An adequate variety and a constant succession of engagements are the chief source of human happiness. He who has something to do every passing moment and hour, can easily triumph over the heat, lassitude and oppression of the warmest weather.

Music, dancing, cards, billiards, the bowling alley, fishing, sailing, shooting, hunting, etc., can not furnish satisfactory recreation for all classes of persons.

They are, indeed, under proper regulations quite innocent, and should be

egarded as necessary appendages to every rural hotel, villa, or summer residence. A man cannot gaze all day with satisfaction upon the sky, ocean, sandy beach, pine trees, and desolate shores where no productions of art shed their humanizing radiance on the rude scenery of nature.

Criticisms

Some visitors at the hotel where we have been were loud in their complaints about the table. They alleged that it was poorly and meanly furnished. It was not, we admit, sufficiently luxurious to satisfy the demands of an epicure, but it was daily spread with kinds and quantities of food adapted to answer all the calls of a sound and an incorrupted taste.

Reading

He should provide himself with a stock of books fitted to afford entertainment to a cultivated intellect and refined taste. Every day he must read his newspaper and attend to his correspondents.

In addition to these engagements, sojourner at the Gulf shore will have leisure to turn his attention to some graver works of poetry, eloquence, or history, exhibiting to his view those splendid characters and sublime ideas, adapted to replenish his soul with the love and admiration of every thing truly great and divine, noble and illustrious.

Philosophical Conclusion

By a proper use, then, of the means which the country in the immediate neighborhood of New Orleans so literally affords, its inhabitants of every description might have access during the entire summer, to the indescribable advantages of a salubrious atmosphere, the finest sea bathing, rural ease, invigorating sports, undisturbed retirement, the 'feast of reason, and the flow of soul' in the circle of those most loved, and complete seclusion from the peculiar and contaminating influences of city life.

'Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished, that the time may soon come when the blessings conferred on us will be understood, appreciated and enjoyed.

(Daily Picayune August 14, 1849)

President from page 1

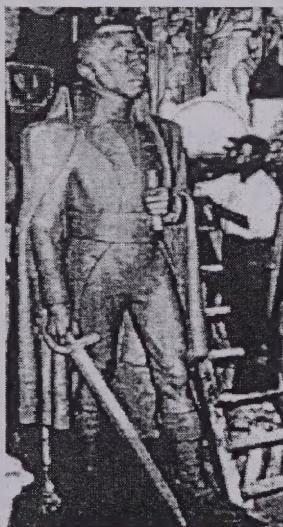
1699 to the present. There are about 100 photographs of houses and buildings in the city, nearly all of which are on the National Register of Historic Places.

There is a brief description/history of each structure and a map showing the streets where they are located. The price for a book is \$10, and will be available at the Lobrano House, book stores and many shops downtown.

The book has gone into its second printing. There would be more if I could print faster.

Fred and Virginia Wagner brought us a beautiful collection of *Historic Preservation* magazines which were published by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. This is a useful and interesting addition in our library.

Ethel May Fillingame brought us a very large schefflera which we can use both inside and outside depending on the weather and occasion. We appreciate this beautiful plant.



Toussaint L'Ouverture,
1952 by
Richmond Barthé

Public work
in front of
Palace, Port-
Au-Prince,
Haiti

Vincent G. Raboteau donated an album of the life and works of Richmond Barthé, including photographs of nearly all of his works and many publications about him. For those who may not be familiar with the works of Mr. Barthé, he was a sculptor of international fame who was born and reared in Bay Saint Louis. He died in 1988 at his home in Pasadena, California.

Charles Gray

TERCENTENARY BRICKS

Remember to order your Tercentenary brick. Call 467-4090 to place order.

NEW MEMBERS

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Katy Schmitt, Bay Saint Louis
Lorna Schindler, Lake Charles, LA
William Reeves, New Orleans
Lorraine Martin, Waveland
David Martin, Waveland

LOBRANO HOUSE HOURS

MONDAY	8 a.m.
through	to
FRIDAY	4 p.m.

THE

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OF HANCOCK COUNTY

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Hancock County Historical Society

To order a copy of *The First 300 Years*, send your check payable to H.C.H.S. in the amount of \$13 (\$10, plus \$3 postage & handling). Copies may be picked up At the Kate Lobrano House and save the \$3 postage.

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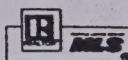
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